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Message Text

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45
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

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RSR-01 /093 W
---------- 029278
R 251445 Z APR 73
FM AMCONSUL HAMBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2401
AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAMBURG 0499

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV
SUBJECT: HAMBURG' S STATE SENATOR OF INTERIOR HEINZ RUHNAU
RETIRES FROM ACTIVE POLITICAL LIFE

1. AFTER MORE THAN 25 YEARS AS A DYNAMIC, AMBITIOUS, AND INFLUENTIAL MEMBER OF THE SPD POLITICAL PARTY, HAMBURG' S STATE SENATOR OF INTERIOR HEINZ RUHNAU HAS DECIDED TO RETIRE FROM ACTIVE POLITICAL LIFE UNTIL, AS HE EXPLAINED IT TO ME, QUOTE MY PARTY REPUDIATES THE RADICAL TENDENCIES WHICH ARE MOVING IT TOWARD NEUTRALISM AND AWAY FROM THE ATLANTIC COMMUNITY CONCEPT END QUOTE. RUHNAU, WHO HAS ACCEPTED AN OFFER TO BECOME THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS DIRECTOR OF THE CO- OP PURCHASING AND MARKETING ORGANIZATION, WILL REMAIN, HOWEVER, A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL BOARD OF THE SPD AND WILL RETAIN, AS WELL, A POSITION AS A BACKBENCHER IN THE HAMBURG STATE ASSEMBLY.

2. RUHNAU CLAIMS HE IS RELIEVED TO BE DIVESTING HIMSELF OF HIS POLICE RESPONSIBILITIES IN HAMBURG. FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE HE PLANS TO PLAY A PASSIVE ROLE IN PARTY POLITICS. HE HOPES, HOWEVER, HIS NEW POSITION WITH CO- OP WILL GIVE HIM THE FLEXIBILITY HE DID NOT ENJOY AS A HAMBURG STATE SENATOR TO TRAVEL ABOUT THE COUNTRY TO COMBAT WHAT HE CONTINUED TO CALL " NEUTRALIST TENDENCIES" WITHIN HIS PARTY.
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3. RUHNAU' S DECISION ENTAILS NO FINANCIAL SACRIFICE ON HIS PART. HIS NEW JOB WITH CO- OP WILL REPUTEDLY PAY HIM BETWEEN DM 250,000 AND DM 300,000 A YEAR.

4. RUHNAU HOPES THAT AN SPD PARTY CONVENTION WILL NOMINATE FRANK DAHRENDORF, STAATSRAT IN THE HAMBURG DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, AS HIS SUCCESSOR. DAHRENDORF, WHO IS ONE OF THE MOST COMPETENT OFFICIALS OF HIS LEVEL SERVING IN THE HAMBURG GOVERNMENT, IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO THIS CONSULATE. WHILE HE ENJOYS THE RESPECT OF THE SPD MEMBERS OF THE HAMBURG BUERGERSCHAFT, WE DO NOT, HOWEVER, THINK HIS BASIS OF POPULAR SUPPORT AMONG THE RANK AND FILE OF THE SPD IS STRONG ENOUGH TO WIN HIM HIS PARTY' S BACKING AS THE NEW HAMBURG SENATOR FOR INTERIOR. BROGAN

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